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OLC 76-2655 SSCI

9 September 1976 SSCI Contact

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with William Miller, Staff Director, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

1. I dropped by to see Bill Miller, Staff Director, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, today to discuss a shopping list of items that I had on my mind. Before I got started, however, Mr. Miller brought up two items of interest to him. One had to do with the Jack Anderson column in today's Washington Post concerning the possible relationship between assassination plots against the life of Fidel Castro and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Mr. Miller noted that he had talked with Mr. Knoche, DDCI, about this and added that there really appeared to be nothing new in the article, although there was some elaboration of some points, except for the allegation that John McCone had briefed President Lyndon Johnson on this subject. He indicated that they had received testimony from John McCone disputing or denying this fact. Mr. Miller did not seem to be too upset about any of the items in this article and it was agreed that in the future we would ask Scott Breckinridge, IG Staff, to alert us and in turn we would alert them to any developments in the press or elsewhere on this subject which constitute new material from the standpoint of information available to the Committee.

2. Mr. Miller also said they would like to have the first working session of the Subcommittee on Charters with Mr. Bush, Mr. Knoche, Mr. Lapham and myself. He said they would like to have the Director's point of view regarding possible changes in the legislative charter of the Agency and his opinion as to how far the Committee should go. He indicated that references in statutes to "intelligence activities" was not enough. He felt that there should be some middle ground between specific statements in the statute and language that was so vague that it was subject to widely varying interpretations as to its meaning. Mr. Miller suggested that we try to schedule this session sometime in the next week or so. (On returning to the office, I learned that Mr. Knoche had scheduled a breakfast session with the Huddleston Subcommittee on Charters next Tuesday, 14 September.)

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3. I told Mr. Miller that we were anxious to cooperate with the Committee and with the Committee staff to the maximum extent possible but said that it made matters particularly difficult for us if different staff people contacted us with duplicate or varying requests. I urged that the Committee staff members, at least within the Subcommittees, coordinate their requests among themselves to reduce duplication and confusion to a minimum. I cited as an example the desire of several members of the Budget Subcommittee staff to meet with some of our budget people, particularly Jim Taylor of the Agency and [redacted] of the IC Staff. I said we planned to have one meeting with Taylor and one meeting with [redacted] in the interest of conserving their time and would like the Budget Subcommittee staff people to coordinate on this one meeting. Mr. Miller agreed that this was desirable and said he would try to keep on top of it. I also discussed it with Chip Pickett, of the Budget Subcommittee staff, who said he was trying to coordinate the activities of his different staff people. (In this connection, it should be noted that Bill Miller mentioned to me that [redacted] IC Staff, would be joining the Senate Select Committee staff as a member of the Budget Subcommittee group.) 25X1 25X1 25X1

4. I mentioned to Mr. Miller the request we had gotten from Rick Inderfurth for a rundown on action taken on the Church Committee recommendations. I told Miller it had been our impression that the Chairman felt there should be a clear distinction between the action taken by the Church Committee and the work of the new Committee and while it was obvious that there would be some follow-up elements, it appeared to me that responding to action taken with respect to any and all of the 86 or 87 recommendations made by the Church Committee could wind up as quite a project. Mr. Miller noted that they had not sent us any letter on this subject and he was not aware of any requirement. He added, however, that of course in certain areas the Agency has taken action with respect to matters recommended by the Committee, notably the increase in personnel in the Office of General Counsel and increased emphasis on the role of the IG, both in the Agency and throughout the Community. Mr. Miller suggested that if we had any difficulty on requests of this sort to merely ask the staff member making the request to ask Bill Miller about it. He said this was the best way for him to handle it and would probably be better for us as well.

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[redacted]

6. I told Mr. Miller that we were ready to provide the Committee with a briefing on terrorism and counterterrorism, the targets, who's protected, etc., and gave him the dates of 21, 22 and 23 September as likely dates for Mr. Knoche and the DDO to come up and brief the Committee. Mr. Miller said he would check this out and be back in touch with me.

7. I also talked to Mr. Miller about the possibility of a member speaking to the LA Division COS Seminar here in early October. Since Chairman Inouye is unavailable, I asked him for a suggestion. Miller recommended Senator Birch Bayh (D., Ind.) who will have returned from his overseas trip by then.

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[redacted]

GEORGE L. CARY
Legislative Counsel

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